

PUBLIC NOTICE

CANCELLATION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DRAFT LOWER TCHEFUNCTE RIVER WATERSHED TMDL FOR BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMANDING SUBSTANCES – PHASE I

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

The Public Hearing previously scheduled on **Thursday, December 8, 2011** to receive comments regarding the draft Lower Tchefuncte River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for biochemical oxygen-demanding substances, **at the St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers, 21490 Koop Drive, Mandeville, LA 70471, HAS BEEN CANCELLED.** This Public Hearing will be rescheduled at a later date.

At this time, written comments will be received by LDEQ until 4:30 p.m. CST, on Monday, December 12, 2011 as stated in the current public notice. The public comment period will be reopened when a new public hearing is announced.

The Lower Tchefuncte River is in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin and this study includes Water Quality Subsegments 040802 and 040803 (Agency Interest Numbers 91280 and 91281, respectively). These subsegments include Ponchitolawa Creek, Bayou DeZaire, Bayou Tete L'Ours, and several unnamed tributaries. The two subsegments lie entirely within St. Tammany Parish.

This TMDL will incorporate a phased approach. Phase I includes the development of a TMDL for the current dissolved oxygen criterion of 5.0 mg/L for Subsegment 040802 and 4.0 mg/L for Subsegment 040803. LDEQ plans to evaluate the need to modify dissolved oxygen criteria for portions of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin through an ecoregion-based use attainability analysis (UAA) study. Once the evaluation is complete, and if needed, the dissolved oxygen criteria for the two subsegments have been revised, then Phase II will be completed. Phase II will include revision and implementation of the TMDL for the appropriate dissolved oxygen criteria.

This TMDL will be incorporated into Volume 8 of the Louisiana Water Quality Management Plan upon approval by the U.S. EPA.

The draft TMDL report can be obtained by submitting a public records request to LDEQ's Public Records Management Section, which can be accessed at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2231/Default.aspx> or by phone at (225) 219-LDEQ (5337) or toll-free at 1-866-896-LDEQ (5337). The draft TMDL report is also available on the LDEQ website:

http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/portals/0/technology/tmdl/pdf/Draft_Tchefuncte_River_TMDL_08102011.pdf.

For information regarding this TMDL, contact Mr. William C. Berger, Jr. at (225) 219-3366. All interested persons are invited and encouraged to comment on this draft TMDL. The Office of Environmental Services will consider any questions and comments expressed during the comment period. Written comments should be addressed to Mr. William C. Berger, Jr. Delivery may be made to the drop-box at 602 N. 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802. U.S. Mail may be sent to Mr. William C. Berger, Jr., Office of Environmental Services, Water Permits Division, P. O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70821-4313. Emails may be submitted to chuck.berger@la.gov and faxes sent to (225) 219-3309.

Scheduled publication date: December 7, 2011